

Message Text

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42

ACTION EB-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ADP-00 RSR-01 RSC-01 /015 W

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R 250950Z JIT 73

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7027

INFO USDOC WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 1722

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN, BM

SUBJECT: BURMESE REQUEST FOR HELP IN OBTAINING NEWSPRINT

REF: A. RANGOON 1708 B. RANGOON 1610

1. MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEWS AND PERIODICALS CORPORATION (U ON PE), CALLED ON PAO JULY 25 TO RENEW REQUEST FOR USG HELP IN CONNECTION WITH WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS VERY GRAVE CRISIS. ON PE SAID THAT GUB HAS EXHAUSTED EVERY OTHER POSSIBLE CHANNEL FOR OBTAINING NEWSPRINT, AND THAT UNLESS IT IS ABLE OBTAIN SOME FROM U.S. EVERY NEWSPAPER IN BURMA WILL CEASE PUBLICATION BY OCTOBER. ON PE REQUESTED FOREGOING BE KEPT STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL.

2. ON PE INDICATED HE WAS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF GUB IN MAKING APPROACH TO USG NOT ONLY AS COMMERCIAL PROPOSITION BUT AS POLITICAL APPEAL TO RESCUE BURMA FROM DEEP AND EM-BARRASSING EMERGENCY. HE STATED CHAIRMAN NE WIN AND CABINET ARE AWARE OF GRAVITY OF SITUATION AND THAT USG IS LAST POSSIBLE SOURCE OF RELIEF. ANY QUANTITY OF NEWS-PRINT AT ANY TIME IN NEAR FUTURE WOULD BE WARMLY WELCOMED, EVEN IF FULL 5,000 TONS ORIGINALLY REQUESTED NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.

3. ALTHOUGH I REALIZE THAT U.S. AND MANY OTHER CONSUMERS
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ARE AFFECTED BY ACUTE NEWSPRINT SHORTAGE, THE AMOUNT SOUGHT BY GUB IS SO SMALL COMPARED TO U.S. CONSUMPTION THAT I URGE DE-TERMINED EFFORT TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO GUB PLEA.
ALTHOUGH WE CANNOT EXPECT ANY SPECIFIC QUID PRO QUO, LONGER-

RANGE POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF USG IN BURMA WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY BE SERVED IF WE ARE ABLE TO HELP GUB IN THIS
SITUATION QUICKLY AND QUIETLY.

4. I WOULD APPRECIATE DEPT'S (A) EXPLORING WITH DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE AND USIA WHETHER NEEDED NEWSPRINT AVAILABLE FROM PRIVATE
US FIRM ON COMMERCIAL BASIS OR COULD BE PURCHASED FROM FOREIGN
ASSOCIATES OF SUCH FIRM, AND (B) WHETHER USG PRINTING OFFICE
OR ANY OTHER USG AGENCY HOLDING NEWSPRINT STOCKS MIGHT BE ABLE
TO ADVANCE SOME OR ALL OF MODEST BURMESE REQUIREMENTS, AGAINST
SUBSEQUENT REPLACEMENT WHEN MARKET CONDITIONS EASE.
MARTIN

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 15 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: RANGOON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730769/dcdcraav.tel
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: NOFORN
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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